<u>IN THE CLAIMS</u>

For the Examiner's convenience, all of the pending claims are set forth below, although no claims are amended herein. The following is a complete listing of the claims, and replaces all earlier listings and all earlier versions.

1. (Previously Presented) A method for alerting during the progressive decoding of a digital image coded by bitplanes with a region of interest coded by a predetermined number of bitplanes to be decoded first, at least a bitplane to be decoded last corresponding to data not belonging to the region of interest, comprising the steps of:

detecting an end of decoding of the region of interest by checking whether the predetermined number of bitplanes has been received; and

activating an indication of the end of decoding of the region of interest by displaying an indicator in an indicator-display area at a predetermined position on a screen.

2. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

activating an indication of a start of decoding of the region of interest; and

activating an indication of the progress of decoding of the region of interest.

3. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1 or 2, comprising the steps of:

activating an indication of decoding of the coded data of the image which is not in the region of interest;

activating an indication of an end of decoding of the coded data of the image which is not in the region of interest.

4. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1 or 2, in which the position of the indicator-display area is alterable by a user.

5. (Previously Presented) A data receiving method incorporating the alerting method according to Claim 1 or 2.

6. (Previously Presented) A method for progressive decoding of a digital image coded with a region of interest, incorporating the alerting method according to Claim 1 or 2.

7. (Previously Presented) A device for alerting during the progressive decoding of a digital image coded by bitplanes with a region of interest coded by a predetermined number of bitplanes to be decoded first, at least a bitplane to be decoded last corresponding to data not belonging to the region of interest, comprising:

means for detecting an end of decoding of the region of interest by checking whether the predetermined number of bitplanes has been received; and

means for activating an indication of the end of decoding of the region of interest by displaying an indicator in an indicator-display area at a predetermined position on a screen.

8. (Previously Presented) The device according to Claim 7, further comprising:

means for activating an indication of a start of decoding of the said region of interest; and

means for activating an indication of a progress of decoding of the region of interest.

9. (Previously Presented) The device according to Claim 7 or 8, further comprising:

means for activating an indication of decoding of the coded data of the image which is not in the region of interest,

means for activating an indication of an end of decoding of the coded data of the image which is not in the region of interest.

10. (Previously Presented) The device according to Claim 7 or 8, in which the position of the indicator-display area is alterable by a user.

11. (Previously Presented) A data receiving device incorporating the alerting device according to Claim 7 or 8.

12. (Previously Presented) A device for progressive decoding of a digital image coded with a region of interest, incorporating the alerting device according to Claim 7 or 8.

13. (Previously Presented) The device according to Claim 7 or 8, wherein said detection means and said activation means are incorporated into:

a microprocessor;

a read-only memory including a program for processing the data; and

a random-access memory including registers suitable for registering variables modified in the course of the running of said program.

14. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for processing a digital image, including means suitable for implementing the method according to Claim 1 or 2.

15. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for processing a digital image, including the device according to Claim 7 or 8.

16. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium storing a computer program for alerting during the progressive decoding of a digital image coded with a region of interest according to Claim 1.

17. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium according to claim 16, in which the computer-readable medium is detachably mountable on a device for alerting during the progressive decoding of a digital image coded by bitplanes with a region of interest coded by bitplanes to be decoded first, at least a bitplane to be decoded last corresponding to data not belonging to the region of interest, the device comprising:

means for detecting an end of decoding of the region of interest by checking at least a number of received bitplanes; and

means for activating an indication of the end of decoding of the region of interest by displaying an indicator in an indicator-display area at a predetermined position on a screen.

18. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium according to claim 16, comprising a floppy disk or a CD-ROM.

19. (Previously Presented) A computer program stored on a computer-readable medium and comprising computer executable instructions for causing a computer to alert during the progressive decoding of a digital image coded with a region of interest according to the method of Claim 1 or 2.

20. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium according to claim 16, in which the computer-readable medium is detachably mountable on a device for alerting during the progressive decoding of a digital image coded by bitplanes with a region

of interest coded by bitplanes to be decoded first, at least a bitplane to be decoded last corresponding to data not belonging to the region of interest, the device comprising:

means for detecting an end of decoding of the region of interest by checking at least a number of received bitplanes;

means for activating an indication of the end of decoding of the region of interest by displaying an indicator in an indicator-display area at a predetermined position on a screen;

means for activating an indication of a start of decoding of the region of interest; and

means for activating an indication of a progress of decoding of the region of interest.